NETWORKING AND RESOURCE SHARING OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN MAHARASHTRA: A STUDY

Final Synopsis Submitted To

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY AURANGABAD

for Degree **of**

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In The Subject Library & Information Science

Under The Faculty of Social Sciences

Submitted by

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Research Guide

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MAY – 2015

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1. PREAMBLE

No library today can be expected to directly hold all of the resources to fulfill all the needs of its users. Rather, most libraries supplement their local collections through resource-sharing arrangements that allow them to offer their clientele access to a broader universe of materials. Libraries participate in local, regional, or global services for the borrowing and lending of materials, supported by different types of organizational relationships and technical infrastructure (Islam, 2013).

Resource Sharing is typically composed of two activities. The first is collaborative collection development, whereby subject specializations are intended to be distributed among libraries within a clearly defined geographic region, so that individual libraries need not attempt to collect resources in all fields; but can concentrate on a particular field. The second form of resource sharing is through various document delivery mechanisms. Inter-library loan might suitably fall into this category (Grycz, 1997). No library is able to satisfy all the needs of information resources. Most libraries did not, do not and will not have all the information resources that their patrons need (Hwa-Wei Lee,1998).

2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

For this study the statement of problem is **"Networking & Resource sharing of the Agricultural College Libraries in Maharashtra: A study".**

2.1 DEFFINITIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1.1 Network

Harrods Librarians Glossary (2012) defined the term "Network" as a system of physically separated computers with telecommunication links, allowing the resources of each participating machine to be shared by each of the others.

2.1.2 Networking

Networking is more structured type of cooperation in which definite regions or areas or definite organizations are connected by electronic or other means to promote inter-library loaning of materials, in-service training and other sharing of resources (Zhang, 1990).

2.1.3 Resource Sharing

Resource Sharing is the activity is the result from an agreement, formal & informal among a group of Libraries (usually a consortium or network) to share collection, data, facilities, personnel etc, for the benefit of the users and to reduce expense of Collection development (Reitz, 2004).

2.1.4 Networking and Resource Sharing

A computerized inter-library loan system overcomes these limitations. For resource sharing, the participating libraries need to come together and cooperate in two broad areas: (a) developing the collection on shared basis, and (b) developing services for exploiting such collection (Dhawan, 1999).

2.1.5 Agricultural College

Agricultural College is an educational institute which imparts education to graduate, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and professional community with the help of various teaching aids and faculty to improve all round development of personality of the student admitted in the college.

2.1.6 Agricultural College Library

A Library Attached or Associated with an Agricultural College and used by teachers, Student & Staff of the Agricultural College is Known as Agricultural College Library.

2.1.7 Maharashtra

Maharashtra is located on the western coast of India, is divided into thirty five districts which are grouped into six divisions: Aurangabad Division, Amravati Division, Konkan Division, Nagpur Division, Nashik Division and Pune Division.

3. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

The present study will be helpful for Agricultural Scientist, Research Scholars, and Teachers as well as the Librarians for the fulfillment of the information need in a ICT Era, also it's highlighted the development of the Network between the all Agricultural College Libraries through Open Source Software's.

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Present study is concerned with the Agricultural College Libraries in Maharashtra, under the jurisdiction of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objectives of this study are as follows.

1) To assess the nature and quantum of resources available in the Agriculture College Libraries.

2) To identify the ICT infrastructure in Agriculture college libraries.

3) To analyze the ICT skills among Library and Information Science professionals working in Agriculture colleges.

4) To know the attitudes of the library staff towards Library Networking those who are working in Agriculture Colleges.

5) To assess the feasibility of developing a library network of Agricultural Colleges.

6) To identify the barriers of Library networking & Resource Sharing.

7) To design a model for implementation of networking & Resource Sharing in Agricultural college libraries.

6. HYPOTHESES

For this study researcher will be considered the following hypotheses.

1. There is a significant difference among the library and information science professionals in Agricultural College Libraries Studied with regard to ICT Skills.
2. There is a significant difference among the Agricultural college library services.
3. There is a positive attitude among the library and information science professionals in colleges towards networking and resource sharing.

7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study researcher used the Descriptive Research Method.

7.1 DATA COLLECTION

Questionnaire will be used as a tool for collecting the all information of the colleges as well as Library. Along with this researcher will directly contact with the Librarians for conducting the interviews and collecting the information, which is useful for this study.

7.2 DATA ANALYSIS

Collected data has been analyzed and presented in tabular as well as graphical form. In graphical form, bar charts, line graphs are used for presentation. For the purpose of analyzing the data collected, the fixed variables were user's gender, age, etc the statistical software package (i.e. SPSS) has been used. In addition, some of the tools/techniques used for analyzing data include chi-square, etc.

8. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In the present study researcher scanned the various types of resources like reference books, research articles, theses, relevant journals / periodicals, published unpublished materials, and the relevant web sites for considering the review from the past studies.

9. CONSPECTUS

The chapterization of the thesis is given below:

Chapter 1: Introduction

In this chapter researcher highlighted Introduction, Propose of the study, statement of the problem, conceptual analysis, Objectives of the present study, Hypothesis, Scope & Limitation, Research Methodology & chapterizatuion

Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature

This chapter deals with the relevant Review of Literature. This analysis of the review of literature is the key focus of any research. It enables to be aware of the past and current trends in any particular branch of research. It is an objective analysis and interpretation of contributions of authors, researchers, scientists, experts etc. Present study review of literature

is grouped on following ways: 1. Introduction 2. ICT facilities available in Libraries 3.ICT Skills among the Library Staff 4.ICT Related Library Services 5.Networking of the Libraries 6.Resource Sharing among the Libraries 7.Conclusions

Chapter 3: Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth Rahuri: History & Development

This chapter deals with the historical background of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Geographical Area, and Growth of MPKV, Present Educational status of University, Present Research Status of the University, Present Status of Extension Education, & Regional Extension Centers.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Interpretations

In This chapter collected data has been analyzed and presented in tabular as well as graphical form. In graphical form, bar charts, line graphs are used for presentation. For the purpose of analyzing the data collected, the fixed variables were user's gender, age, etc the statistical software package (i.e. SPSS) has been used. In addition, some of the tools/techniques used for analyzing data include chi-square, etc.

Chapter 5: Model Plan for Networking & Resource Sharing In Agriculture College Libraries

This chapter deals with the model plan for the networking & Resource sharing of the agricultural college libraries. In this chapter highlighted Introduction of Model, Purpose of the MPKVLIBNET (Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth Library Network) Networking Model, Finance provision, Organizational structure, Service area of the proposed model, Areas of resource sharing i.e Library Materials i.e Books, Journals, Articles etc, Acquisition of library materials, Governing body of the Network, Hardware & Software requirements, in the software KOHA open source software used, Home page of the Network, and lastly proposed memorandum of Understanding format & Resource Sharing agreement format between the Institute & MPKVLIBNET.

Chapter 6: Conclusions and Implications

This chapter highlighted the overall conclusions, suggestions, and further areas of the research.

The thesis end with the list of bibliographical references and appendices.

10 MAJOR FINDINGS

- Under the jurisdiction of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (MPKV) there is 49 government as well as self finance colleges. Out of 49 agricultural Colleges researcher have received 40 (81.63%) response. Out of All 40 colleges there is 34 (85%) are self financed & only 6 (15%) are government agricultural colleges.

- It is observed that studied with regard ICT Skills among the government & self financed college Librarians, it is found that most of the government college librarians have more ICT skills compare with the self financed college, i.e Operating system government college librarians have 83.33% high & self financed college librarians have only 20.59%, Library Automation & Networking 100% Government librarians have high level skills hence self financed college only 23.53%, The chi-square test is also administered to test the hypothesis that there is a significant difference in ICT infrastructure facility in Private and a Government Agricultural college library Level of Significance alpha (α) =0.05, P-Value = 0.000 is less than the alpha (α) level (=5%).

- It is found that in the availability of the library collection Government College Libraries have total print resources 2, 91,070 & self financed college libraries have only 79,257 the same situation in E-Resources Government College libraries have 41,383 followed by self financed college libraries only 8,581.

- It can be observed from the collected data regarding provide the Manual services to the users, all the categories of libraries have given predominance to manual lending services. It is followed by reference services (100%) respectively by all the categories of colleges. Least importance has been given to user education by government and self financed colleges (83.33% and 35.29%) respectively. The chi-square test is also administered to test the hypothesis that there is a significant difference in manual library services among the libraries of 'government ', and 'self-financing' institutions. Level of significance (α) = 0.05, P-Value = 0.001 is less than the alpha (α) level (=5%). Hence the hypothesis is significant.

- The collected data shows that computerized services provided to the users it is revealed that 100% of government colleges, 41.18% of self-financing colleges are providing computer based lending services in their libraries. Reference service

50% government college libraries provide & only 32.35% self financing colleges, Current Awareness Service 100% & 0% respectively, Bulletin Board Service 83.33% & 8.32 percent respectively. The chi-square test is also administered to test the hypothesis that there is a significant difference among the Agricultural college library services. Level of significance (α) = 0.05, P-Value = 0.000 is less than the alpha (α) level (=5%). Hence the hypothesis is significant

- It is found that 45.5% of librarians working in government colleges have strongly agreed to share their e-learning resources with other libraries under this network programme, (33.33%) librarians working in the government aided colleges have strongly agreed to share their e-books, e-journals and e-theses and dissertations with other libraries under this network programme. (58.82%) librarians from self-financing colleges have strongly agreed to share their e-books with other libraries under this network programme.

- The collected data shows that, the strongly disagree total 39 and disagree total 83, Neutral total 44, Agree total 132, Strongly Agree total 222 have been divided by number of respondents (N: 70) and disagree and agree value has been calculated. The ratio between Strongly Agree: Agree: Neutral: Disagree: Strongly Disagree Ratio = 11.14: 4.93: 6.64: 2: 1 respectively the disagree ratio is negligible. Therefore it seems that the librarians prefer for networking of libraries. Hence hypothesis there is a positive attitude among the library and information science professionals in colleges towards networking and resource sharing has been significant.

- It is found that barriers faced by librarians towards Library Networking programme 70% of librarians felt that the barriers towards library networking programme were lack of financial resources in the library. It is followed by lack of trained human resources (75%) and lack of awareness on library networking programme (72.5%). Least importance has been given to lack of support from the management (50%).

11 MAJOR IMPLICATIONS:-

1. The qualified library and information science professionals should be appointed in the colleges particularly in self-finance colleges.
2. The self finance libraries should develop the collections, services and ICT infrastructure facilities to provide effective services to the users.
3. The libraries should be allocated sufficient finance in order to introduce new services and also to improve the existing services.
4. It is very important that the success of any new system or service is based on the adequate knowledge, skills of staff members. Therefore, the librarians and library staff should be properly trained when a new service or technology is introduced in the libraries.
5. It is suggested that the librarians should develop their attitudes to share the library resources among other libraries in a systematic way.
6. The senior librarians working in government colleges should have more commitment and interest in taking new initiative for providing better library services and products.

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